

Newsletter

January 2012

Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association

Established 1910

Scottish Charity Number SCO31754

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Developments in the treatment of the Nosema Diseases

ADBA members may have heard about the prospective withdrawal of the Nosema treatment, Fumidil B, and will be wondering what approach to take in combating the disease in the coming year. The question becomes even more pointed given the news (reported in the October edition of the newsletter) of the confirmed presence in Scotland of *Nosema ceranae*, an unwelcome cousin of *Nosema apis*, which has been present for many years.

As far as chemical treatments are concerned, Defra are currently conducting

research into the field efficacy of the fungicide enilconazole (Imazalil) as a potential alternative to Fumidil B.

In the meantime, very helpful advice is available in the form of an article by the Scottish Beekeepers' Association's Diseases Convener, Phil Moss. This was published in the December 2011 edition of *The Scottish Beekeeper*. Although it is likely that most ADBA members will also be members of the SBA, some won't, and others may have missed the article. With the kind permission of both Phil and *The Scottish Beekeeper*, the relevant advice is reproduced below.

The standard treatment [for *Nosema*] has been the antibiotic Fumagillin, available to beekeepers as Fumidil B, but EU regulations mean this will not be available after June 2012 at the latest.

There is no other antibiotic available.

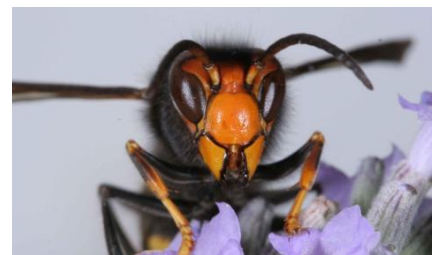
As with all pests and diseases, the best hope of control is through Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which uses a series of control measures, using different chemical and physical methods, and aims to maintain a healthy vigorous colony. For *Nosema*, the remaining chemical is thymol, so using bee health products that contain thymol is one measure.

Physical methods to maintain a healthy colony include ensuring the colony is well fed and housed at all times, and has a young queen. Another physical method is to decrease the spore load in the colony as much as possible. This can be achieved by good hygiene, so as not to transfer spores between colonies, (wash hive tool and wash gloves in 1Kg soda crystals in 5 litres water when moving from one colony to the next, have clean clothing, don't move hive parts between colonies). It is also important to reduce spore levels in overwintered combs. Empty supers and brood boxes should be carefully scorched with a

Subscriptions

Everyone should now have a copy of the subscription renewal form, which should be submitted to the Treasurer this month. With your renewed membership, as well as continuing to receive your favourite monthly newsletter, you will get a copy of the ADBA Events Planner, giving details of the talks, demonstrations and other members' activities throughout 2012.

Don't delay!



"Are you talking to me?"

See page 3.

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hot flame, as should well scraped frames (very carefully!) before putting in new foundation. Alternatively, frames without comb or foundation can be immersed in soda solution or bleach, such treatments are more effective if the frames are dried out then retreated, but must be well rinsed to remove all traces of soda or bleach, and dried before use.

For those confident in handling acid, supers and brood boxes with frames and comb can be stacked and treated with 80 percent acetic acid.

Almost 50 years ago I was taught to put three or four-year-old frames to the outside of the brood box in the autumn, and replace them with fresh foundation in the spring, so all frames were 'only' three or four years old. Another old fashioned way is that if you can't see the light through a brood frame, replace it. With increased incidence of brood diseases at present, these rules of thumb are no longer valid, and frames should be cleaned or replaced, and fresh foundation put in, so they are only used for two years, or at an absolute maximum three years.

All the physical methods above should be done whether or not you have Nosema. If you do have, or suspect you have, Nosema, then you should seriously consider a complete frame change, either through a shook swarm or a Bailey comb change (details can be found on Beebase).

Nosema ceranae came from the east and is not adapted to cold climates, so spores can be killed by cold, so clear a space in the freezer and put supers in there for 10 days (this will also kill wax moth). Conversely, N. Apis spores will withstand the cold, but are susceptible to heat, 49°C for 24 hr, which is below the melting point of wax so frames with comb (but no honey) can be treated.

All these physical methods will also be effective against other pests and pathogens, and will benefit both the bees and the beekeeper, though will not improve the health of the beekeeper, only that of his bank account because of the increase in honey yield that will result from having healthy vigorous bees.

When using any of the products mentioned above, as with all chemicals, read carefully and observe diligently all the instructions for use, especially the safety instructions.

Details of techniques mentioned can be found on Beebase. Go to:

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/index.cfm>

Register if you haven't already done so, and search for the relevant items.

If you want 'hot' links, then e-mail:

diseases@scottishbeekeepers.org.uk

with the word LINKS in the subject line and I will send them to you.

The above extract is taken from 'The Nosema Diseases', written by Phil Moss, SBA Diseases Convener, and published in The Scottish Beekeeper, December 2011, Vol 88 No 12. Reprinted here with the kind permission of the author and that of The Scottish Beekeeper.

First spring meeting

'Preparing for Oilseed Rape'

Saturday 18 February at 2.30pm

The Kinellar Community Hall
Fintray Road
Blackburn AB21 0SS

New beekeepers welcome.

APIMONDIA

International Bee Health Symposium 2012
Saturday 24 March 2012, Citywest Hotel and Convention Centre,
Dublin, Ireland

The programme will consist of 3 state-of-the-art plenary lectures, (open to all), delivered by invited experts followed by 3 concurrent roundtable discussions led by the experts and facilitated by beekeepers and researchers. This format will be repeated in the afternoon with 3 further topics and the meeting will conclude with a short plenary discussion session.

To find out more and to register for the meeting online go to the website: www.beehealth2012.ie
Or contact the Symposium Secretariat - Email: beehealth2012@mci-group.com or Telephone: +353 (0)1 280 2641

Foraging around

There has been much excitement in the media about the possibility that **colony collapse disorder** affecting North American honeybees might be linked to a parasitic fly, *Apocephalus borealis*, that appears to have crossed hosts from its existing predation of bumble bees.

Very many news outlets picked up the story, including the Telegraph, which gives this description of what may be happening:

'The insect lays its eggs in the abdomens of bees, which start displaying "zombie" behaviour, abandoning their hives en masse to congregate near lights.

'Finally they die, and the fly larvae emerge from their bodies.'



For more, see:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/science-news/8989563/Bees-turned-into-zombies-by-parasitic-fly.html>

The Strathearn Herald reported on the inaugural meeting of **new neighbours** for the ADBA, the Perth and District Beekeepers' Association. The new group is drawing around 30 people, made up of experienced beekeepers, beginners, and those interested in getting started.

The report is at: <http://www.strathearnherald.co.uk/strathearn-news/strathearn-news/2011/12/23/busy-beekeepers-form-association-64054-29990777/>

And finally.....the National Bee Unit is providing more advice in relation to the threat from the Asian Hornet [*pictured on page 1*], an aggressive predator of honeybees. An information sheet including details of how to build an Asian Hornet Trap can be found at:

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/downloadDocument.cfm?id=607>

Beekeepers and the public are being asked to report any suspect sightings via the Alert System: alert_nonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Those with a strong constitution (and access to the Internet) may wish to see astonishing footage of an Asian Hornet attack on a honeybee colony, at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L54exo8JTUs>

Thanks to Stephen Palmer for this item.

A Tangled Web We Weave

We have a hitch with the ADBA website. Please bear with us while we sort this out.



We wish!

A lucky bee in Nelson, New Zealand, with yields of up to 100Kg of manuka honey per hive.

Thanks to Ian Murray for this picture.



Extractor and Steam Melter for Hire/Loan

9-frame radial extractor (electric) – FOR HIRE £10 per hire period

Steam wax melter – available ON LOAN £10 deposit

Both items available from: Jock McGregor, 11 Marcus Road, Blackburn. Tel. 01224 790468

Aberdeen Bee Supplies

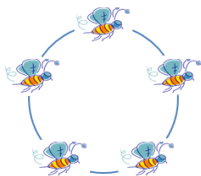
Jock McGregor is the local agent for Thorne Beekeeping Equipment.

Contact him on 01224 790468 or e-mail:

AberdeenBeeSupplies@hotmail.com

Beekeeping Circles

If you would like to join an existing beekeeping circle in the following areas, contact -



Helen Anderson, based in **Inverurie**, on 01467 620750, e-mail: sh.and@gmx.com

Graham Torrie, based in **Torphins**, on 013398 82038, e-mail: grahamtorrie002@btinternet.com

The initiative relies on individual members volunteering to compile and share (with permission) a list of names and contact numbers of other beekeepers in their local area, then to take things forward as the members of the circle deem fit. If you would be prepared to co-ordinate a beekeeping circle in your own area, please contact Graham Torrie.

According to.....

.....William Hamilton in his book, *The Art of Beekeeping*, manufactured comb foundation was invented by J. Mehring, a German, in 1857. But production on a commercial scale had to wait until the invention in 1875 of a "roll type of machine" by Root and Washburn. Twenty years later, in 1895, E.B. Weed came up with a sheeting process for producing comb foundation. The 'Weed process' is still used today.

ADBA Equipment

The Association has the following items of equipment available for free borrow: 2 honey extractors, 2 mini-melters, 2 heather honey presses, 1 wax extractor and 1 wax foundation press. These are available from the honey jar store at Danestone Market Garden (directions below) on payment of a returnable £10 deposit.

The maximum length of loan should be two weeks.

We also have supplies of Apistan, Jars, Ragus, Ambrosia Bee Syrup and Hessian for smoker fuel. The store is open between 6.30pm and 8pm on Wednesday evenings and at other times by arrangement with Sandy Gordon (Tel: 01224 484540).

Directions: At Persley Bridge (Tesco) roundabout turn onto Laurel Drive. Continue for about ½ mile. Look for Laurel Place on your right (it is a semi-circle so take the second entrance into this street). Now turn left into Laurel Avenue. Danestone Market Garden is signposted, on the left, about 100 yards along.

Distributing the newsletter by e-mail realises significant savings for the association. If you do not currently receive the newsletter by e-mail and wish to do so, contact Graham Torrie on 013398 82038, or by e-mail at: grahamtorrie002@btinternet.com

We urge as many members as possible to do so.

Why not think about contributing to the newsletter yourself? We have a wealth of experience and expertise in the association, and it would be great if we could do more to share this around our members. If you have any tips, advice, or experiences to pass on, why don't you jot them down and forward them to the above e-mail address? I would be happy to assist with drafting and formatting, so feel free to call me on the above number if I can help.

Graham Torrie